

Night 19

Highlights from Surah As-Sajdah: The main theme of the Surah is to remove the doubts of the people concerning Tauhid, the Hereafter and the Prophethood, and to invite them to Islam. The disbelievers are told: The Qur'an is Allah's Word, which has been sent down to guide those who are sunk in heedlessness who did not have a prophet before. "How can you call it a fabrication when it is manifest and self-evident that it is from Allah?" Then, they are asked: "Use your common sense and judge for yourselves which of the things in the Qur'an are strange? Look at the administration of the heavens and the earth, your own creation and structure. Does the system of the universe point to Tauhid or to shirk? Doesn't your intellect attest that the One Who created the universe the first time around can create it once again?" Then the Surah depicts a scene from the Hereafter, lists the rewards for believing and the evil consequences of disbelief, and invites to give up disbelief before they meet their doom. They are told: It is Allah's supreme Mercy that He does not punish mankind immediately for errors. However, He afflicts people with small troubles and hardships and calamities so that they may wake up. Then it is said: "This Qura'n is not the first and novel event of its kind, a Book was revealed to Moses also. Rest assured that this Book has come down from God. Leadership now will be bestowed only on those who will accept this Divine Book. Those who reject it shall be doomed to failure." Then the disbelievers of Makkah are admonished: "Take a lesson from the doomed communities of the past, whose ruined habitations you pass during your trade journeys. Will you like to meet the same fate?" Lastly, the Prophet^{SAW} is told: "These people mock at what you say and ask as to when you would attain the decisive victory. Tell them: when the time comes for the final judgment regarding you and us, believing then will not profit you at all. If you have to believe, believe now."

Highlights from Surah Al-Ahzab: Three important events that occurred that year are discussed: The Battle of the Trench in the month of Shawwal; the raid on Bani Quraidah in the month of Dhil-Qa'dah; and the Prophet^{SAW}'s marriage with Zainab^{RAA}, also in Dhil-Qa'dah. Background: The Battle of the Trench: With the setback of Muslims at Uhud, Quraish and many of the Arab tribes became more aggressive and gathered a large army and marched against the small city of Madinah. The Jews of Madinah, who had a defense treaty with Muslims, secretly allied themselves with the kuffar. The Prophet^{SAW} got a trench dug out on one side to defend Madinah with 3,000 men. The other three sides of the city were protected by natural terrain. This kind of a defensive strategy was unknown to the Arabs. They surrounded Madina but failed to penetrate the defensive lines even after a long siege. Then, by the Grace of Allah^{SWT}, a windstorm accompanied with lighting and thunder hit the camp and overthrew the tents and put the enemy in disarray. The enemy abandoned their mission and ran away. This was a great victory for the Muslims and the Prophet^{SAW} declared: "The Quraish will never be able to attack you after this: now you will take the offensive." Raid on Bani Quraidah: During the Battle of Trench, the Jewish tribe of Bani Quraidah broke a treaty with Muslims and sided with the enemies. Allah^{SWT} commanded through Jibreel^{AS} to punish them. It was carried out and the male members of the tribe were killed. Social Reforms: During all this time, the work of reform as a whole and the reconstruction of the Muslim society continued uninterrupted. This was the time when the Islamic laws pertaining to marriage and divorce were completed; the law of inheritance was introduced, drinking and gambling were prohibited, and other laws concerning the economic and social life were enacted.

Key Highlights: These were the questions that drew the attention of the Prophet^{SAW} and Muslims at the time Surah Al-Ahzab was revealed, and Allah^{SWT} guidance followed it:

- Adopted children do not have the same status as the natural children. The rules of non-Mahra apply to them, and the rights of inheritance do not apply to them. The wives of the Prophet^{SAW} are like mothers to the believers.
- Commandments to the wives of the Prophet^{SAW}: 1) You should not desire the glitter of worldly things – rewards in the Hereafter are better. 2) If you commit open indecencies your punishment

will be doubled; conversely, if you do righteous deeds your rewards will be doubled. 3). When you talk to men not closely related to you, do not be soft in your tone, because people with diseased hearts may get the wrong impression. 4). Stay in your houses and do not display your finery like the women in Jahiliya did. 5) Allah^{SWT} has enjoined on the Prophet^{SAW}, his wives and the believing women to draw their cloaks over them. This is more proper, so that they may be recognized. 6). The believers do not have a choice in matters that have been decreed by Allah^{SWT} and the Prophet^{SAW}.

- Allah^{SWT} has prepared forgiveness and great rewards for those men and women who are Muslims, believers, devout, truthful, patient, humble, and who give sadaqah, observe fasts, guard their chastity, and do Zikr of Allah in abundance.
- Those who do Zikr of Allah in abundance, especially in the morning and the late afternoon hours, Angels pray for them, and Allah^{SWT} sends His blessings and brings them out from darkness into light.
- *“Indeed, Allah and His angels send blessing on the Prophet^{SAW}; O you who believe, pray for Allah’s blessing on him in a beautiful way.” [33:56]*

Highlights from Surah Saba: The Surah deals with the objections of the disbelievers over Tauheed, the Prophet^{SAW},

and the Hereafter. The stories of the Sabeans and the Prophets David and Solomon have been related to drive this lesson: "You have both these historical precedents before you. On the one hand, there were the Prophets David and Solomon, who had been blessed by Allah with great powers and such grandeur and glory as had been granted to hardly any people before them. In spite of this, they were not proud and arrogant, but remained grateful servants of their Lord. They were never rebellious. On the other hand, there were the people of Saba, who, when blessed by Allah, became arrogant, and were consequently so thoroughly destroyed and dispersed as to be remembered only in myths and legends.

Key Highlights: 1) Intercession before Allah^{SWT} cannot avail, except from the one whom He permits. 2.) Wealth and children is a test for which they are given. 3) Whatever you spend in charity, Allah^{SWT} will pay you back in full and more.

Highlights from Surah Faatir: The Surah is named after a beautiful name of Allah (Al-Fatir – the Creator). The people of Makkah and their chiefs are warned, as if to say: "O foolish people, the way to which this Prophet is calling you is to your own advantage. Your anger, your tricks, your conspiracies and designs to frustrate him are only going to harm you.

Key Highlights: 1) Anyone who is seeking honor should know that All Honor belongs to Allah^{SWT}. 2) Good words and intentions ascend to Allah^{SWT}, but are exalted when followed by deeds. 3) No one will bear the burden of another on the Day of Judgment. Even close relatives will not be of help.